

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072856
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
ACDA-12 INR-10 SS-15 /059 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ETUNIS:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
DOD/DSAA:COL. GRITZ
PM/SAS:DKEENE (DRAFT)
NEA/RA:COL. WGROSS (DRAFT)
-----084787 222016Z /64

R 212218Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INFO SECDEF
DA
USASAC ALEX VA
HQ USEUCOM
CDR USASAC NCAD PA
MIRCOM REDSTONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: DEFECTIVE TOW MISSILES - JORDAN

REF: (A) (DALO-SAC) 281600Z FEB 78, (B) AMMAN 2210

1. U.S. ARMY HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW
FROM USING ANY FUNDS OTHER THAN THOSE APPROPRIATED FOR MAP
FOR JORDAN TO REPLACE JORDAN'S MAP-SUPPLIED DEFECTIVE TOW
MISSILES. THE MANUFACTURER AT THIS TIME IS NO LONGER
LIABLE TO REPLACE THESE MISSILES AS THEY ARE SIX YEARS
OLD AND THIS IS A "LATENT" DEFECT.
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2. WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS WILL BE AWKWARD TO PRESENT TO
THE JORDANIANS. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE HELPFUL IF YOU POINT
OUT TO THE JAF THAT THE QUALITATIVE STANDARDS FOR THESE
MISSILES AGREED UPON BY THE SERVICE AND THE MANUFACTURER
IN QUESTION REFLECT AND MEET AN ACCEPTABLE COST/RELIABILITY
BALANCE. MUNITIONS COSTS WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE IF A 100

PERCENT RELIABILITY STANDARD AND GUARANTEE WERE REQUIRED BY THE SERVICE. OF THE 20,000 MISSILES REMAINING FROM THE PRE-1976 PRODUCTION, ONLY 22 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DEFECTIVE; IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT JORDAN SHOULD HAVE 17 OF THE 22. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS NUMBER IS CAUSE TO REPLACE THE ENTIRE LOT, NOR SHOULD THIS SMALL PERCENTAGE MAKE THE

JAF GENERAL STAFF RELUCTANT TO ISSUE THESE MISSILES TO THEIR TROOPS. JAF SHOULD KNOW THAT THE TOW MISSILES, WITH THE SAME PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE DEFECTIVE ACTUATOR BOTTLES, HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN DEPLOYED TO U.S. FORCES. WITH REGULAR SURVEILLANCE OF MISSILE STOCKS DEFECTIVE MISSILES CAN BE EASILY IDENTIFIED EVEN BY TROOPS IN THE FIELD.

3. TWO POSSIBLE MEANS FOR JORDAN TO REPLACE THE DEFECTIVE MISSILE WOULD BE (A) TO ENTER A PROGRAM LINE FOR "REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF MAP MATERIEL," WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE WOULD BE COST EFFECTIVE, OR (B) FOR JORDAN TO REQUEST REPLACEMENT FOR DEFECTIVE MISSILES. BOTH PROPOSALS WOULD UTILIZE MAP FUNDS AND WOULD MEAN A REDUCTION IN OTHER AREAS OF JORDAN'S MAP PROGRAM. CONSIDERING THE OVERALL GRANT AID PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE 3,748 MISSILES WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE DEFECTIVE LOTS REQUIRE SUCH A HIGH PRIORITY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, MISSILES, MILITARY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE072856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ETUNIS:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0906
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780341/aaaabihv.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b32261c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 AMMAN 2210
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3250995
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFECTIVE TOW MISSILES - JORDAN
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b32261c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014